

Search

Search



Sources: Trump lawyers knew of Russia emails back in June

Michael Isikoff
Chief Investigative Correspondent
Yahoo News July 13, 2017



President Trump and son Donald Trump Jr. (Photo illustration: Yahoo News; photos: Alex Brandon/AP, Matt York/AP)

WASHINGTON — President Trump’s legal team was informed more than three weeks ago about the email chain showing that his son Donald Jr. met with a Kremlin-connected lawyer last June, two sources familiar with the handling of the matter told Yahoo News.

Trump told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday that he learned just “a couple of days ago” that his son, Donald Trump Jr., had met with Russian lawyer, [Natalia Veselnitskaya](#), after receiving emails that she would supply him with information that “would incriminate Hillary” and was “part of Russia and its government’s support for Mr. Trump.” That was the day after Donald Jr. [release](#) the email exchanges himself, after learning they would be published by the New York Times.

Trump repeated that assertion in a talk with reporter Air Force One on his way to Paris Wednesday night. “I only heard about it two or three days ago,” he said, according to a transcript of his talk when asked about the meeting with Veselnitskaya at Trump Tower

Popular in the Community

Sammy Sosa still looks way different than he did in his playing days

1,558 reactions

4% 75%

Older And His Furry Friend Shared More Than Love

News Daily Feed Sponsored

in June 2016 attended by Donald Trump Jr., Paul

But the sources told Yahoo News that Marc Kasowitz, the president's chief lawyer in the Russia investigation, and Alan Garten, executive vice president and chief legal officer of the Trump Organization, were both informed about the emails in the third week of June, after they were discovered by lawyers for Kushner, who is now a senior White House official.

'Unbelonging': A life split between co
12 reactions 3% 80%

On June 8, 2016, Trump Jr. had forwarded an email to Kushner and Manafort about the upcoming meeting with the subject line: "FW: Russia-Clinton private & confidential."

The discovery of the emails prompted Kushner to amend his security clearance form to reflect the meeting, which he had failed to report when he originally sought clearance for his White House job. That revision — his second — to the so-called SF was done on June 21. Kushner made the change even though there were questions among his lawyers whether the meeting had to be reported, given that there was no clear evidence that Veselintskya was a government official. The change to the security form prompted the FBI to question Kushner on June 23, the second time he was interviewed by agents about his security clearance, the sources said.

Ironic 'Lifeguard' Pic Has Internet Firestorm: 'There Is Somebody Drowning in Background'
529 reactions 3% 68%

Trustees project biggest Social Security increase in years
1,645 reactions 4% 79%

But the information that Trump's lawyers were told about the emails in June raises questions about whether they would not have immediately informed the president. Trump's campaign is under investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into possible collusion with Russian government officials. The emails appear to be the first hard evidence of contacts between top campaign officials and someone connected to the Kremlin.

Egnyte™ Cloud File Server
Egnyte™ Sponsored

A spokesman for Kasowitz declined to comment, saying the matter involved "privileged information."

Garten did not respond to an email request for

week in June also raises additional questions about the initial public statements made by the White House after the existence of the meeting was first reported by the New York Times on July 8. At that time, Trump, Jr. issued a [public statement](#) describing the session as a “short introductory meeting” in which the primary topic of discussion was “the adoption of Russian children” by American families. The actual purpose of the meeting, to obtain damaging information about Hillary Clinton ostensibly collected by the Russian government, wasn’t mentioned in Trump’s initial statement.

Donald Trump arrives in Paris at the invitation of France's president, Emmanuel Macron

5 reactions

0% 100%

The next day, Reince Priebus, the White House chief of staff, [said in an interview](#) that the meeting was “big nothing burger.”

The president himself repeatedly described the Russia investigation as “fake news” and ridiculed television networks’ reports about it. “With four months looking at Russia...under a magnifying glass, they have ‘zero tapes’ of T people colluding. There is no collusion & no obstruction. I should be given an apology!” the president wrote in two tweets on June 26.

Luis Fonsi On Justin Bieber's Spanish 'Despacito' Hitting No. 1

387 reactions

3% 81%



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

[Follow](#)

The real story is that President Obama did NOTHING after being informed in August about Russian meddling. With 4 months looking at Russia...

5:59 AM - 26 Jun 2017

19,272 76,458

Shop Gamer Laptops.

Dell Sponsored



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

[Follow](#)

..under a magnifying glass, they have zero

6:05 AM - 26 Jun 2017

19,514

87,497

Aside from questions about the credibility of White House statements, the disclosure of the emails potentially has raised new questions about Kushner's security clearance. He initially filed his SF-86 on Jan. 18, leaving out any mention of meetings with foreign government officials during the transition and the campaign. His lawyers have said this was inadvertent and that a member of his staff had prematurely hit the "send" button for the firm before it was completed. Within twelve hours, they have said, Kushner notified the FBI that he would make amendments and disclose his meetings with foreign officials.

This was followed by a revised security clearance submission on May 11 in which Kushner reported more than 100 meetings with officials from over 20 countries, including a meeting with [the Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak](#) and another with [Sergey Gorkov, the head of Russian state-owned bank](#).

The revised security clearance led to Kushner's first FBI interview about the matter in mid-May, the sources said. The bureau is now reviewing Kushner's second amended form following the new disclosure about his meeting with the Russian lawyer. His lawyers are confident that it won't raise any additional problems since, as they have asserted, Kushner had forgotten the meeting — he was only briefly present — and had no intent to conceal it. In the meantime, he has an interim security clearance, sources said.

[Sign in to post a message.](#)